

1 CLAIMS.

2  
3 We claim:

4  
5 1. A tool for medical testing, the tool comprising, in combination:

6 a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising:

7 a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an operational  
8 surface;

9 one or more earpieces; and

10 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece;

11  
12 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the  
13 reflex hammer comprising:

14  
15 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,  
16 the stethoscope head being received in the opening, the rim being larger than  
17 the stethoscope head, the body positioned on the stethoscope head such that  
18 the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational  
19 surface; and

20 a handle, the handle joined to the body, the handle sized to receive  
21 and semi-rigidly receiving the connecting means therein.

22  
23 2. The tool as described in claim 1, wherein the stethoscope is a binaural  
24 stethoscope.

25  
26 3. The tool as described in claim 1, wherein the stethoscope is an electronic  
27 stethoscope.

28  
29 4. The tool as described in claim 1, wherein the stethoscope further comprises a  
30 means for selecting the stethoscope head operational surfaces, the means for  
31 selecting the stethoscope head operational surfaces being between the  
32 stethoscope head and the means for connecting.

33  
34 5. The tool as described in claim 4, wherein the reflex hammer further comprises  
35 an opening therein, the opening in the body being between the rim and the

- 1 handle, the opening allowing access to the means for selecting the stethoscope  
2 head operational surfaces.  
3
- 4 5. The tool as described in claim 5, wherein the handle further comprises a  
5 detent.  
6
- 7 6. The tool as described in claim 6, wherein the detent is distal to the  
8 stethoscope head.  
9
- 10 7. The tool as described in claim 5, further comprising a means for locking the  
11 means for selecting the stethoscope head operational surfaces.  
12
- 13 9. The tool as described in claim 6, wherein the body further comprises a pair of  
14 joined members.  
15
- 16 10. The tool as described in claim 9, wherein the members are not symmetrical.  
17
- 18 11. The tool as described in claim 10, wherein the members are joined by a  
19 fastener.  
20
- 21 12. The tool as described in claim 11, wherein the fastener is selected from the  
22 group consisting of hook and eye closures, hook and loop fasteners, snaps,  
23 buttons, ridges, press-fit and snap-fit components.  
24
- 25 13. The tool as described in claim 11, wherein the reflex hammer is further  
26 comprises a means for guiding the connecting means therein.  
27
- 28 14. The tool as described in claim 7, wherein the medical testing is selected from  
29 the group consisting of neurological testing, reflex testing, percussion of an  
30 abdomen, percussion of a thorax, and percussion of a body part in need of  
31 percussion.  
32
- 33 15. A method for employing a stethoscope as a neurological tool, comprising the  
34 steps of:

1 affixing to a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising a stethoscope  
2 head having an operational surface;  
3 one or more earpieces; and  
4 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece,  
5 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer comprising:  
6 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,  
7 the rim being larger than the stethoscope head, and a handle joined to  
8 the body;  
9 receiving the stethoscope head in the opening;  
10 positioning the body on the stethoscope head such that the reflex  
11 hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational surface;  
12 and  
13 positioning the handle so that the connecting means is semi-rigidly  
14 received therein.  
15

16 16. The method as described in claim 15, further comprising the step of  
17 contacting a patient with the reflex hammer.  
18

19 17. The method as described in claim 16, wherein the step of contacting the  
20 patient further comprises contacting the patient with the rim of the reflex  
21 hammer.  
22

23 18. The method as described in claim 16, wherein the step of contacting the  
24 patient further comprises applying the head of the stethoscope to the patient.  
25

26 19. A method for employing a stethoscope as a neurological tool, comprising the  
27 steps of:

28 affixing to a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising a stethoscope  
29 head having an operational surface;  
30 one or more earpieces; and  
31 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece,  
32 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer comprising:  
33 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,

1 and the rim being larger than the stethoscope head;  
2 receiving the stethoscope head in the opening;  
3 positioning the body on the stethoscope head such that the reflex  
4 hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational surface;  
5 and  
6 attaching a handle to the connecting means, thereby semi-rigidly  
7 receiving the connecting means therein.  
8

9 20. The method as described in claim 19, further comprising the step of  
10 contacting a patient with the reflex hammer.  
11

12 21. The method as described in claim 20, wherein the step of contacting the  
13 patient further comprises contacting the patient with the rim of the reflex  
14 hammer body.  
15

16 22. A tool for medical testing, the tool comprising, in combination:  
17 a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising:  
18 a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an operational  
19 surface, the head and the operational surfaces each having a size;  
20 one or more earpieces; and  
21 a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece;  
22  
23 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the  
24 reflex hammer comprising:  
25  
26 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,  
27 the stethoscope head being received in the opening, the rim being larger than  
28 the stethoscope head, the body positioned on the stethoscope head such that  
29 the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational  
30 surface; and  
31 a semi-rigid handle receiving the connecting means therein, the handle  
32 not being joined to the body.  
33

1 23. A device to convert a stethoscope into a tool for medical testing, wherein the  
2 stethoscope comprises a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an  
3 operational surface; one or more earpieces, and a means for connecting the  
4 stethoscope head with the earpiece; the device comprising:

5  
6 a reflex hammer for attachment to the stethoscope head, the reflex hammer  
7 comprising:

8  
9 a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein  
10 for receiving the stethoscope head, the rim being larger than the stethoscope  
11 head, the body positionable on the stethoscope head such that the reflex  
12 hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational surface;  
13 and

14 a handle, the handle joined to the body, the handle sized to semi-  
15 rigidly receive the connecting means therein.  
16

17 24. A device to convert a stethoscope into a tool for medical testing, wherein the  
18 stethoscope comprises a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an  
19 operational surface; one or more earpieces; and a means for connecting the  
20 stethoscope head with the earpiece; the device comprising:

21  
22 a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the  
23 reflex hammer comprising:

24  
25 a body, the body comprising a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an  
26 opening therein for receiving the stethoscope head, the rim being larger than  
27 the stethoscope head, the body positionable on the stethoscope head such  
28 that the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head  
29 operational surface; and

30  
31 a handle sized to semi-rigidly receive the connecting means therein,  
32 the handle not being joined to the body.  
33

34 25. A tool for medical testing, the tool comprising, in combination:  
35 a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising:

1                   a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an operational  
 2 surface;  
 3                   one or more earpieces; and  
 4                   a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece;  
 5  
 6                   a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the  
 7 reflex hammer comprising:  
 8  
 9                   a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,  
 10 the stethoscope head being received in the opening, the rim being larger than  
 11 the stethoscope head, the body positioned on the stethoscope head such that  
 12 the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational  
 13 surface; and  
 14                   a handle, the handle joined to the body, the handle sized to receive and semi-  
 15 rigidly receiving the connecting means therein; the handle further comprising a  
 16 detent distal from the stethoscope head.  
 17  
 18 an opening being formed in the body between the rim and the handle, the opening  
 19 allowing rotation of the stethoscope head;  
 20                   the reflex hammer body comprising one or more members, the members being  
 21 joined by a fastener, the members comprising a means for guiding the  
 22 connecting means therein.  
 23  
 24 26 The tool as described in claim 25, wherein the stethoscope is chosen from the  
 25 group consisting of binaural stethoscopes and electronic stethoscopes.  
 26  
 27 27. The tool as described in claim 25, wherein the stethoscope further comprises  
 28 a means for selecting the stethoscope head operational surface, the means  
 29 for selecting the stethoscope head operational surfaces being between the  
 30 stethoscope head and the means for connecting.  
 31  
 32 28. A tool for medical testing, the tool comprising, in combination:  
 33 a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising:  
 34 a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an operational  
 35 surface;

1                   one or more earpieces; and  
2                   a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece;  
3  
4           a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the  
5           reflex hammer comprising:  
6                   a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,  
7           the stethoscope head being received in the opening, the rim being larger than  
8           the stethoscope head, the body positioned on the stethoscope head such that  
9           the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head operational  
10          surface; and  
11          a handle, the handle sized to receive and semi-rigidly receiving the  
12          connecting means therein; the handle further comprising a detent distal from the  
13          stethoscope head.  
14  
15   29. A tool for medical testing, the tool comprising, in combination:  
16          a stethoscope, the stethoscope comprising:  
17                  a stethoscope head, the stethoscope head having an operational  
18          surface;  
19                  one or more earpieces; and  
20                  a means for connecting the stethoscope head with the earpiece, the  
21          means for connecting being a stem which is oversized, the stem being used  
22          as a handle;  
23  
24          a reflex hammer, the reflex hammer attached to the stethoscope head, the  
25          reflex hammer comprising:  
26                  a body having a rim, a wall adjoining the rim, and an opening therein,  
27          the stethoscope head being received in the opening, the rim being larger than  
28          the stethoscope head, and the body positioned on the stethoscope head such  
29          that the reflex hammer does not interfere with the stethoscope head  
30          operational surface.  
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